bear this in mind, especially the fact that on account of the depression and the consequent delay in the payment of the loan by the ryots, amounts have become overdue, and security has to be taken. In cases where encumbrance certificates are to be taken, every concession should be shown, because that is a case in which the ryot is not in a position to pay back the money and extension is granted to pay back the money in easy instalments, and as I have already stated these instalments go up to ten years. That being the case, to ask the ryots to pay for the encumbrance certificates at a time when they are so much in difficulty and they are not even able to pay the ordinary instalments, will work a great hardship on them. I would therefore ask the Government to consider these matters before they pass final orders on this question."

* Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am not at all satisfied with the answer given by the Hon. the Minister. He has not at all considered this question with any sympathy. I think if he had known the real difficulties that these societies are undergoing, he would have undertaken to examine the question with due care and sympathy. He said that these concessions have been misused and that is why Government were put to the necessity of charging fees. (The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan : ' I said that was one of the reasons' .) If, Sir, the Government had noticed any misuse, it was up to them to devise ways and means of putting a stop to such things; but they should not curtail the concessions granted so far. Apart from the question of fees for registration, the fees for encumbrance certificates is a very great problem and the Government should at least consider this with sympathy. Otherwise, I fear these co-operative societies will be put to much difficulty. As the Minister has not shown any sympathy towards these things, I am sorry I have to press this motion."

The amendment was put and lost.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT :—" We have covered all the amendments. I believe the House is ready to proceed with the next item on the agenda."

V.—STATEMENT *RE* DURATION OF SITTING.

* The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU :—" Before other work is taken up, Sir, I wish to make a statement regarding the business of the House and the continuance of this meeting. We have been sitting for the last 7 or 8 days and I have been asked how long the House will sit and continue the sittings at this meeting. I may mention, Sir, that of course, to-morrow will be taken up for non-official business. Such Bills as could be passed to-day, that is, whose names have been mentioned on the agenda, will be passed. As regards one Bill, Government are very particular that it should be passed at this meeting, that is, the Madras Public Service Commission Bill (Bill No. 19 of 1935). I have received a requisition from a number of Members of the House that the work of the House may be adjourned after the sitting of to-morrow.

4th February 1936] [Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu]

As I have said, as Government are anxious to see that the Madras Public Service Commission Bill is passed through at this meeting, I would make a suggestion to the House; and if it is agreeable to the Members of the House, we can agree to that course, and that is this: that the first and the only business on Thursday will be the Madras Public Service Commission Bill, and if hon. Members are prepared to agree to finish the Bill by lunch time and pass it before rising, I would be agreeable to have the House adjourned and then meet next at the end of the month."

VI.—THE MADRAS REVENUE (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL (BILL No. 1 OF 1936).

* The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Revenue (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill [a] (Bill No. 1 of 1936) and move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once.

" Sir, I have had drafted a pretty detailed statement of objects and reasons which I think covers the whole ground of the necessity for this Bill. The House has already on a previous occasion approved the principle of delegation of powers to the Board of Revenue in somewhat similar circumstances and I do not think it is necessary for me to state very much more than what is given in the statement of objects and reasons. There is another reason, as has been stated here, why a reference to the Governor in Council in all those Acts should be done away with, and that is, of course under the new Constitution, there will be no such body as the Governor-in-Council. The nomenclature ' Governor-in-Council ' will be obsolete when the new Government of India Act comes in. This Bill, generally speaking, simply proposes to carry out what in practice has been the case in the past, that is to say, to make the Board of Revenue the final authority in those three cases which are mentioned in the statement of objects and reasons. To my knowledge, the Government has had no occasion to pass any orders under those old Acts, I do not know for how many years, and the inclusion of a reference to the Government under those Acts is unnecessary, and in fact, such a reference has not been made for a very long time. In view of what I have said, I trust the House will agree to take this Bill into consideration now."

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I second it, Sir."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" Mr. President, Sir, I am not sure whether the Government are well-advised in introducing a Bill of this sort just on the eve of the Reforms. I may tell the Hon. the Revenue Member that the question of the retention of the Board of Revenue has been long under discussion and there are very strong opinions on both sides of the matter; and in a matter like this, that Government should do anything to enlarge the powers of the Board of Revenue and so make it more difficult for those who are for the abolition

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[a] Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 7th January 1936.